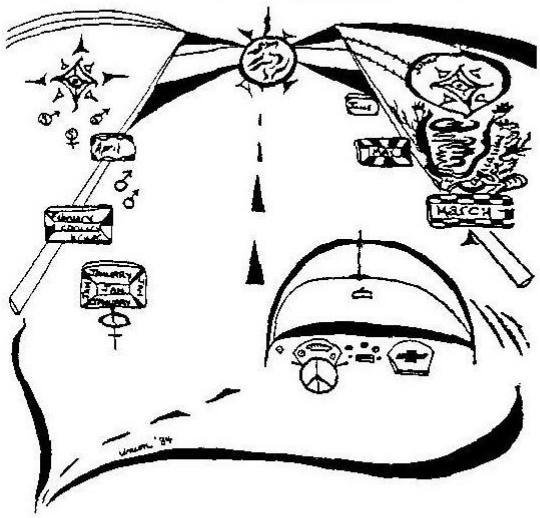
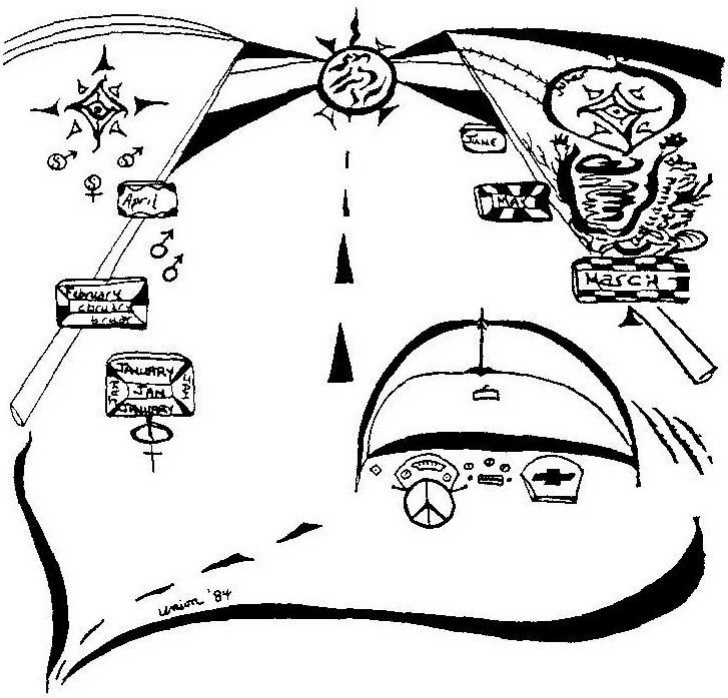
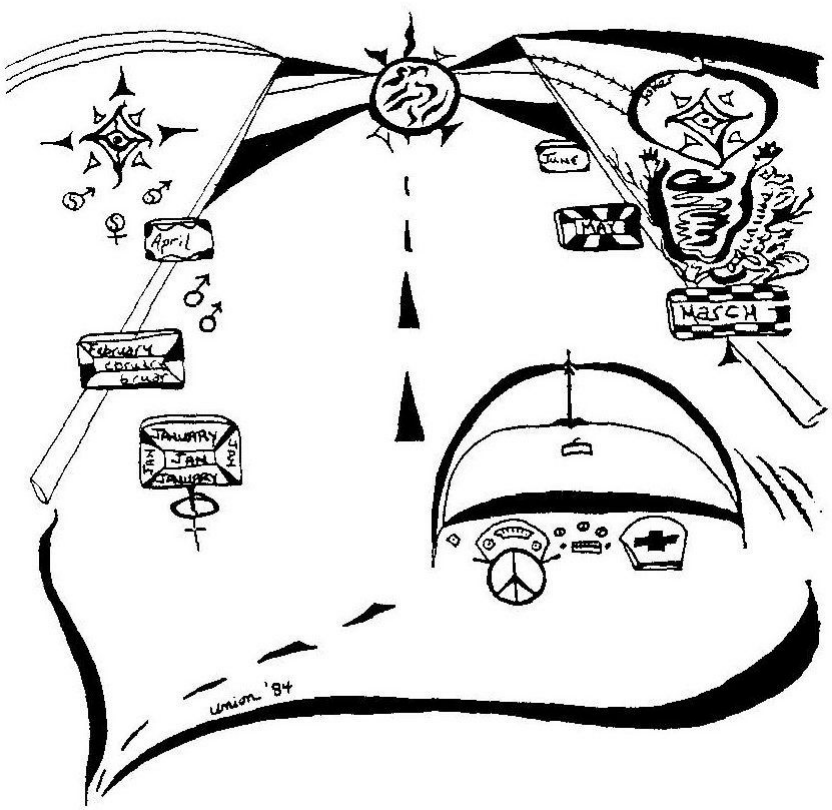
THE BI-MONTHLY

Newsletter of the Bisexual Center

Volume 8 Number 1 January-February 1984







NEW MEMBERSHIP SCHEDULE

As announced in the last Newsletter, membership rates have risen for the first time in several years. In addition to the previous levels of membership listed below, we have several new levels with extra benefits attached:

$50 Sustaining Member: Free copy of Fred Klein's book The Bisexual Option

$100 Sponsor: Bisexual Option plus free special dinner in their honor

$250 Patron: Bisexual Option, special dinner, and a copy of "Best of the BiMonthly"

$1000 Lifetime Member: All of the above, plus free admission to all Bi Center events (except special workshops)

We are also asking if people are willing to either make a single contribution to the Center now, or are willing to pledge a certain amount each month to the Center. For monthly pledges, we will send you a pre-addressed envelope to send in your pledge. And your name will be listed in the Bi Monthly. We have our State tax-exempt status, and the Federal, expected shortly, will be retroactive to our date of application.

BOARD MEETINGS

The next two meetings of the Board of Directors of the Bisexual Center will be held on Monday, January 9th and Monday, February 13th at the Bi Center. Meetings of the Board are open to Bi Center members only. We invite members who have a special interest in sharing their ideas and suggestions to attend.

Cover illustration by Aja.

THE BISEXUAL CENTER

1757 Hayes Street
San Francisco, CA 94117
(415)929-9299

FOUNDERS

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MEMBERSHIP

Gift membership?____ Acknowledgement needed?____

Name:_____
Address:_____
City:_____ **State**_____ **Zip**_____
Telephone:_____
Skills_____

Sustaining.....$50.00
Regular.....$25.00
Restricted Income....$15.00
Newsletter Only.....$10.00

_____**Check here if renewal**

_____**Check here if you do not want to receive mail**

Make check payable to "The Bisexual Center"
1757 Hayes Street
San Francisco, CA 94117

How did you hear about the Bi Center?_____

FOR OFFICE USE: received by _____; paid____; date_____

EVENTS

VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY

Eight years ago, we bisexuals claimed Valentine's Day as our special holiday, and so it has remained--a special day, full of tender smiles, gentle flirtations, and erotic fantasies. Our eighth annual Bi Center Valentine's Day party and dance is sure to be another delightful evening, so some on down, and bring some munchies to go with our champagne punch!

Date: Saturday, February 11
Time: 9:00 p.m.
Place: The Bi Center
Donation: $5 for members
$7 for non-members

(P.S. Ever wanted to send an anonymous Valentine to some gorgeous person who hardly knows you're alive? Well, do it! But sign your name! And add an invitation to the Bi Center's Valentine's Day Dance!)

ROCKY HORROR PARTY

Come party with us, then we'll go in force to the Rocky Horror Picture Show. Come to the center at 9 PM on Saturday, Jan. 14, then we'll carpool from the Center at 11:30 PM. Outragous costumes encouraged; we'll ask a $2 donation to the Center.

EAST BAY SOCIAL

As the social at Nate Brown's was such a success, we have decided to offer this event as a bi-monthly feature to help pay the Center's rent. Limited to Bi Center members only; bring snacks to share, and a hot tub is available; bring a towel, sandals and a robe.

When: Friday, January 27
Time: 8 PM
Place: 1438 Everett Street, El Cerrito
(Call Nate, 235-7179 for directions)
Donation: $5.00 members; $7.00 guests

At the previous social, a question was raised by a new member as to what sort of sexual activity was permissable at Bi Center sponsored functions. It has been the policy of the Center for some time that in order to provide a safe atmosphere for participants, sexual activity will not be allowed beyond consentual touching. What takes place after the event, of course, or whatever arrangements are made for future encounters are no longer Center controlled and up to the participants. It's just that while the activity is taking place we need to set some ground rules.

At the above event, or others for "Members only" each member may bring one guest, and we ask that the member take the responsibility of explaining the above policy so that no misunderstanding ensues.

WOMEN'S EVENTS

PAJAMA PARTY

At Vilma's in Vallejo, Saturday, January 28 sleepover to Sunday. Bring a snack to share for the evening; brunch will be provided. Bring sleeping bag, pillow. Carpool will be provided at 7:30 on the 28th from Bi Center to Vilma's; call her at (707) 554-4124 home; (707) 554-4137 office and she will give you directions or mail you a map. $2.00 donation to center.

INTIMATE EXPLORATIONS

Tired of superficial relationships? Come join us for an evening of honest, intimate sharing. Through a series of exercises, we will explore our inner selves and intimately get to know each other. At the Bi Center, 7:30 PM, Monday, January 23rd. Donation: $3-$5.

LAUGHTER AND PLAY

Lyndie Kabanek, co-founder of Playshops Unlimited, takes us to the magical world of spontaneous laughter and play through movement, music and games. Dress comfortably in colorful clothes, and please bring with you a candle and home-made musical instrument. C'mon, we'll have fun! At the Bi Center, Monday, January 30. $3-$5 donation.

MASSAGE NIGHT SURPRISE

Are your muscles tired & sore? Is your body in need of touch? Please join us for a marvelous evening of loving massage exchange. We will experience the giving and receiving of touch and massage in a completely different way (surprise!). Please bring a sheet, some oil, a snack to share and lots of curiosity. Don't miss this experience! Your body deserves to be touched!! At the Bi Center, Monday, February 27. $3-$5 donation.

BISEXUAL PARENTING IN THE 80's -or- "MOMMY, WHAT'S A DYKE?"

by Charlene Michael

PART IV: BI MAMA'S BEDTIME RAG

Bisexual Myth No. 893: "Bisexuals are constantly having sex, and it's probably kinky."

Sex education in my day consisted of a thirty-second question and answer session with my mother when I was eleven years old. We were sitting on the steps in front of our house, lounging in that magical time of dusk, when grimy day turns to silky night. A special moment was in the offing; I dared to ask the most intimate question I'd ever asked. "I just don't understand how people do sex; I mean, how is it done, exactly?" My eyes fixed on mother in awe, my heart filled with the wonderment of honesty.

Unfortunately, expectations of the heart are sometimes never met. Blessings on her head for loving me; mom replied, gazing at the steps beneath our feet, "Oh, it'll just happen naturally."

Well, years of frustrating "natural" sexual experiences during my adolescence confirmed to me what I had been expressing when I reached out to my mother: I needed information. For me, factual, honest answers about sex did not exist when I was ready for them.

In spite of Myth 893 quoted above, I take as much time to think and talk about sex as I do to experience it, and I feel good about this. I believe that overkill is a valid response to repression; as any of my (good) friends can tell you, I've been sorting out my frustrations about my early sexual experiences for years. My conviction, one which is shared by many people in the bi community, is that information and supportiveness are keys which help open the doors of sexual exploration for any human being. Certainly children--be they toddlers or adolescents--are to be considered as human beings. Also, as with other aspects of living, I allow my joy in being a sexual person to shine through as an undercurrent of happiness when I answer the questions my kids ask me about sex.

And ask they will.

"Mommy..."

"No!"

"Can I- could you- can I..."

"No, go in the living room and play, mommy's having some hugs right now, and I want you to go away for a while, okay?"

"Why?"

The question of being sexual in a family environment (a generous way of saying that the brats won't leave the room) pops up occasionally around the house. In my household, with my kids, the guidelines I use are simple and basic. (I should mention that the children in my life are ages 7 and under.)

-Everyone has their own room, plus a few common rooms to share. The right to invoke absolute territorial jurisdiction in one's own room exists at all times. I don't need to feel guilty or sneaky or play twenty questions if I want privacy. Privacy becomes the central issue, not sexuality.

-All this being the case, there are still times when the kids are going to walk in when mom is, shall we say, all wrapped up in somebody. If this happens (and it does) the rule to remember is: don't panic. Affection and sexual exchanges are much nicer to feel when I'm relaxed. So what is mom doing? She's having hugs. She's spending time with a friend. She's relaxing. Simple, affectionate answers.

I like it this way. I could have been a promiscuous, kinky, swinging bisexual just like in the myths, but somewhere along my path I've discovered myself to be a healthy, happy, sexual human being, a bisexual woman who has lovers, a parent who loves her kids.

* * * * * * * * * *

The Chelsea Cafe invites you to come and enjoy our fine coffees, treats and good company at Chelsea Square, corner of California & Polk, 7:30 AM to 11 PM Monday through Sunday.
474-7721

ASSISTANT SOCIAL DIRECTOR NEEDED

With the expanding social events at the Bi Center, I have found it takes more than one person to organize everything. I am seeking an assistant to help in planning and coordination of events; if interested, please leave a message at the Center for me.

---Autumn---

RAFFLE UPDATE

Thus far there has been no support for the Valentine's Day Raffle announced in the last newsletter, therefore this project has been tabled until later in the year when it may be reinstated.

BREAKING DOWN A BRICK WALL

by REGINA JACOBS

I chose this way of life. It was my decision. I was willing to take on all the heartache that goes along with someone you love; but not only did we have the usual ups and downs of getting to know each other, but I had to contend with his liberal lifestyle and the fact that he was bisexual.

The moment I met Ian I knew I had to know him better. It took a couple of months before I could muster up the courage to ask him out; when I did he asked me to his place. While we were there I realized I was very attracted to him. Eventually we started making out and we ended up making love. Ian was the most tender, caring man I had ever met. I realized I could fall in love with him very easily.

Soon after that we started sharing the same place. When we became more comfortable we talked about his open lifestyle. I was very conventional at the time and told him I wouldn't feel comfortable if we had other lovers on the side; he said that it was okay but he wanted me to know I had the option. I didn't know he was bisexual at the time but I suspected it. One of the things he liked to do was participate as a third for couples. I thought he might be making love to both of them. But I wasn't ready to ask that question just yet!

As time went on I realized how much it meant to Ian to have an open lifestyle. I decided to give it a try. I told him I would like to have a threesome. We had a friend who was sexually open so we invited him into bed with us. It was very erotic having two men make love to me at the same time, and it made Ian so horny afterwards that I grew to be a real enthusiast!

From the new-found courage I acquired I decided to ask Ian if he had ever made it with the male half of those couples and he replied, "Yes." Not only that, but the majority of the encounters he did have were with men only. How many? Eighteen-hundred men--that wasn't small potatoes!

I told Ian my fears about his bisexuality; how afraid I would be if I saw him sharing something sexual with another man. "It would be like taking something special away from us," I said. He told me not to worry. "You keep me so busy I wouldn't be able to find the time anyway." I felt great relief that I didn't have to prove myself but I also felt very guilty. A little voice kept telling me I wasn't being fair to him. He didn't limit me in any way; I should show him the same consideration.

Ian was very patient with me. He knew what a hard time I was having, struggling with the conflicts of living an unorthodox life. Whenever he started talking about his previous bi encounters, I would become very offended and tell him to stop and give him the cold shoulder as if to punish him for bringing it up and he always laughed it off good-naturedly. Unfortunately, I stopped relying on myself to deal with my fears and put all the responsibility on him. Needless to say, I was pushing him to his limit and he finally said, "No more. If you can't handle it, there's the door!"

I realized what I had been doing all along--not wanting to face our reality. If I loved him I had to love all of him and not try to change who he is. If I was to stay with Ian, I had to accept that. I explained to Ian what had been going on inside my head. "I don't want to keep you captive any longer," I said. "You shouldn't have to keep your bisexuality pushed in a corner somewhere; you should be free to express that side of you. I don't want to keep any barriers between us. I know I haven't been taking any responsibility for my life but I will from now on. I promise."

So far I've kept up my end of the bargain. It hasn't been easy and I'm still struggling with my jealousies but Ian has been so supportive it has helped quite a bit. I have fallen many times in the past but I am determined not to give up. If I hit a brick wall in my learning process, I will pick myself up and keep pushing at it until I knock it down. My new motto is: I'm going to face it!

And I'll keep facing it until I get it right.

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BI-POL MEETING

There will be a meeting of BI-POL, the new Bi Political Organization, on Friday, January 20, at 4:30 PM at 1757 Hayes St. Space donated by the Bisexual Counseling Service.

Community Bulletin Board

TUESDAY RAP

Our Tuesday rap group remains what the name implies...a meeting place to discuss issues relating to your present or recent experiences, and not for therapy or problem-solving. If you would like support for your feelings around bisexuality or any other subject, this is the place to ask for it. Starting at 7:30 and going until about 10, we ask for a donation of from $3-$5.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Starting in January, Wednesday nights will be a drop-in coffee night for those who want to learn more about the center and meet others who may be new to the Center. Occasionally special topics will be offered and these will be announced on the answerphone. A board member will be present to answer any questions you may have. There will be a small donation asked of non-members to support the Center.

January 11th topic: Self Healing Workshop

A.A. GROUP

Sponsored by a local group of Alcoholics Anonymous, the "Bi Bye Booze" group meets each Monday night at the Bi Center from 7:00 to 8:00. New members are welcome.

PROBLEMS ANYONE?

Women's Therapy Group Forming

A closed therapy group for women, beginning February 16 and running for 10 weeks, will focus on problem-solving those interpersonal issues which keep you from getting what you want. We will meet Thursday evenings from 7-9:30 at the Bi Center. Weekly fees based on a sliding scale. Pre-interviews are a must by Feb. 10th; for more information or interview appointment, please leave message for Sonika at the Bi Center or call 661-8131. Sonika Tinker has three years experience in facilitating and co-leading women's problem-solving groups.

WANT MORE FOR YOUR MONEY?

Loan needed for start of new business by Bi Center member, up to $6000. High interest rate, payable within one year. Call Arlene, 928-3723.

TRANSITIONS

New Board Member Sonika Tinker has assumed the job as facilitator of the Monday night women's rap group, as well as arranging women's events at the Center. Sonika is currently an intern with the Bisexual Counseling Service.

NEWSLETTER

The deadline for submission of articles and announcements for the next Bi Monthly is Sunday, February 19th. Please leave all materials in the folder at the Center labeled "Newsletter" or call Nate at 235-7179. He will be at the Center on the above date between 11 AM and 4 PM.

DAN WHITE PROTEST

Protest the injustice of Dan White's release on Jan. 6 with a rally at Castro and Market at 8 PM, and a city-wide work stoppage from 1-1:15 PM that afternoon. Whereever you are, stop work; stop your car, blow your horn; let your anger out at this injustice. MAKE NOISE!

WOMEN'S RAP GROUP

At 7:30 PM on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, the Bisexual Center offers a drop-in rap group for women to share their thoughts and feelings around issues of bisexuality. Not a self-help therapy/support group or an intellectualization session, but an opportunity to meet with women and share relevant issues in our lives. All women are welcome. A $3.00/$5.00 donation will be requested.

BISEXUAL MARRIED WOMEN

We are two bisexual married women who are interested in forming a rap/social group of Bi married women to get together once a month at the Bi Center. If you are interested, please either call the Bi Center and leave a message as to how you can be reached, or write to the Bi Center, ATTN: Sara and Liz. If there is enough interest, we will get back to you.

DOUBLE VISION

To meet other Bi's by way of personal "word portraits," send $3.75 for a sample copy to Double Vision, P.O. Box 1107, Richmond CA. 94802

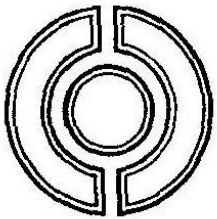
BI-MONTHLY CALENDAR 1984

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2 ♀ RAP P.6 — AA GP. P.6 MONDAYS	3 TUES RAP P.6	4 WED. SOCIAL P.6	5	6	7
8	9 BOARD MEETING P.2	10	11	12	13	14 ROCKY HORROR P.3
15	16 ♀ RAP P.6	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 ♀ EXPLORATIONS P.3	24	25	26	27 EAST BAY SOCIAL P.3	28 ♀ PAJAMA PARTY P.3
29	30 ♀ LAUGHTER + PLAY P.3	31				

FEBRUARY

			1 WED SOCIAL P.6	2	3	4
5	6 ♀ RAP P.6 — AA GP. P.6 MONDAYS	7 TUES RAP P.6	8	9	10	11 VALENTINES DAY PARTY P.3
12	13 BOARD MEETING P.2	14	15	16 ♀ THERAPY GROUP P.6	17	18
19 NEWSLETTER P.6	20 ♀ RAP P.6	21	22	23 ♀ THERAPY GROUP P.6	24	25
26	27 ♀ MASSAGE NIGHT P.3	28				



1757 Hayes Street
San Francisco, CA. 94117

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS

TO:

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